



Mary Vavra

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cc:

Subject: April 17th Meeting Agenda

This is a reminder that the next meeting of the River Council is scheduled for April 17th at 7PM at the Fox Nature Center in Estell Manor Park. If you have any additional items for the agenda or are unable to attend, please let Rick Coe or myself know.

**Meeting Agenda - April 17th, 2002**

✓ Call To Order

✓ Approval of Minutes from March 20th meeting

1st      2nd  
Dick      Creed

**Old Business**

- ✓ - Bylaws (review for changes to membership) *see attached*
- ✓ - Status Report/Update from members on their projects funded through the River Council
- ✓ - Update on WMA #15 activities
- ✓ - Status Report on river-related issues

**New Business**

- ✓ - River Council Letterhead
- ✓ - River Trip - May 11th - *Mary needs names of people to invite*
- ✓ - Update on River Administrator Activities

*Marina*  
*Eng. Ck to Bulk head*  
*MC to Eng. Creek and* Report by 5/1  
*to Fred*

**Public Portion**

**Adjournment**

**Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River  
Meeting Minutes  
April 17, 2002**

**Meeting Called to Order** at 7:10PM by Rick Coe

**Roll Call** by Belinda Irizarry

**Board Members in Attendance:** Julie Akers, Rick Coe, Dick Colby, Bill Christman, Bill Egan, Greg Gregory, Creed Pogue, Joel Spiegel, Marc Thyrring,

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Zapisek, Robert Almeda, Eric Fooder

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Others Present:** Fred Akers (River Administrator), Belinda Irizarry (Alternate from GEHWA), Bernie Rogers, and Mary Vavra (National Park Service)

**Proceedings**

Rick Coe stated that the meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. Notices were sent to official publications for the River Council – The Courier Post and The Press of Atlantic City. A copy of the notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Fox Nature Center and the Atlantic County Library in Mays Landing. An Affidavit of publication from the Courier Post was received.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dick Colby made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20, 2002 meeting. Creed Pogue seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Bylaws** - The issue of terms was discussed. Rick Coe stated that River Council needed some kind of certainty and continuity for membership. Creed Pogue suggested a straight two-year term to avoid an issue with the rolling membership concept. Terms would expire on alternate years. Bill Egan commented that the bylaws should reflect the need to consider the wishes of elected officials while others voiced the need for the River Council to operate by its own bylaws without being subject to changing political climates. Marc Thyrring made a motion to amend the bylaws to state that members can be removed for cause in accord with the local procedure in effect for each municipality. The motion was seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried. Dick Colby made a motion to table this issue so that a more coherent revision of the bylaws can occur. Creed stated that members are appointed so that membership is staggered and recommended that the procedures for zoning board members should be followed and that River Council terms be for two years with lots being drawn to determine whose terms would be up at the end of this year or next. Motion died for lack of a second. It was agreed that Rick Coe will draft a revision to the bylaws and bring it back to members for discussion. Any council member who has suggested language for Rick Coe should forward such language to him promptly.



### ***Project Update -***

- Rick Coe stated that a Monroe Township engineer is volunteering his services to work on the Blue Hole project being funded by the River Council.
  
- Greg Gregory stated that the Recreation Department and School Board are both prepared to do cleanups in Somers Point, specifically Drag Island. Randy Carney from Somers Point Dept. of Public Works is coordinating the cleanup efforts.
  
- Greg Gregory updated members on the development of signs for the watershed and letterhead for the River Council. Artwork for the signs has been roughed out and Greg is working with a graphic artist who is volunteering his time to develop a logo and signage. Greg Gregory made a motion for each municipal representative to travel through his/her area to determine the number of signs needed. Motion was seconded by Creed Pogue. Motion carried unanimously. Creed Pogue will look into the process for signage on county roads. Greg will ask the artist for a ballpark figure for each sign so that the River Council can determine how many signs can be purchased. Greg will try to provide a copy of the art work and letterhead at the next meeting.
  
- Greg provided a status report on the acquisition of an area in Somers Point by a nonprofit environmental group which will develop the property for passive recreation. Once the agreement of sale goes through the Somers Point will provide an easement for access.

### ***Watershed Management Area #15 Update***

Fred Akers gave a status report on the WMA #15 planning process. NJDEP and Atlantic County are reviewing the planning process to decide the best approach to completing the process. Fred will be talking with Atlantic County about open space acquisition and "Action Now" projects, as well as exploring the development of a task force/subcommittee to review the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Great Egg Harbor River to determine what information in the CMP can be used in a Watershed Management Area #15 report. Fred Akers will meet with Atlantic County and NJDEP to find out what is needed and then report back to the River Council.

### ***River-related issues***

Mary Vavra provided members with a copy of a letter from the National Park Service to the Regional Administrator of EPA in New York regarding Section 404 Clean Water permits in the non-tidal portion of the Great Egg Harbor River. The National Park Service has not received any Section 404 permits in the last 5+ years and requested that EPA review its permitting process to assure National Park Service review on any Clean Water permit in the designated river corridor.



## **New Business**

### ***River Trip --***

Mary Vavra provided details about the river tour that is being organized to educate local officials about the tidal portion of the river. The tour is set for May 11<sup>th</sup> with Captain Brook Koencke of the Duke O'Fluke. It was decided that the boat would leave from English Creek Marina on Wharf Road in Egg Harbor Township at 12 noon and travel to Mays Landing and back to the marina. Mary will send a letter to the Hamilton Township Clerk on 4/18 so that she could distribute the invitation to the Mayor, Town Committee, Planning and Zoning Board, and Environmental Commission members. Bill Egan also supplied a list of individuals to be invited from Weymouth Township. Mary will promptly notify individuals about the pending trip.

### ***River Administrator Report***

- Fred Akers provided an educational brochure on stormwater management to members. Fred then gave an update on stormwater issues in the watershed.
- Fred mentioned the video prepared as part of the GEHWA/NPS sponsored "Adopt-a-Stream" program produced by Greg Vizzi on behalf of GEHWA. Fred suggested that additional copies of the video be made available for both GEHWA Board Members and River Council members for use to promote this program in other locations. Fred will be asking the GEHWA Board for the funds to make additional copies of the video.
- Fred Akers mentioned that GEHWA received a request for funding from the Hamilton Township River Patrol. This request will be reviewed at the next GEHWA Board Meeting.
- Fred and Julie Akers attended a Hamilton Township meeting on April 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issues along the non-tidal portion of the river. Township officials are trying to resolve the livery/use issue and looking for assistance. Fred was optimistic about Hamilton Township's interest in resolving the issues and will continue to work with the committee.
- Fred Akers continues to work with Atlantic County to identify potential acquisition sites in the river corridor.
- Fred will be attending a meeting at Stockton College on 4/18 to listen to Brad Campbell, the new NJDEP Commissioner, who will be discussing water issues and the drought.

Clean Communities Grants - Fred recommended that the River Council provide half of the requested funds to municipalities for river cleanups to get the project started and then reimburse the balance once the work is done. Winslow Twp. and Hamilton Township have provided formal proposals for cleanups. Fred has been working with 7 communities so far. Creed Pogue made a motion to approve an initial disbursement of \$1,000 each to Hamilton Township and Winslow Township for their river cleanups. The motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. Roll Call Vote:



Julie Akers - yes; Rick Coe -yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Creed Pogue - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasury Issues:**

Dick Colby presented a bill from Egg Harbor Township to pay \$1,000 to cover Adopt-A-Stream Program expenses at the middle school. A motion was made by Greg Gregory to pay \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Creed Pogue. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers - yes; Rick Coe -yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Creed Pogue - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Rick Coe presented two bills to cover ads announcing the River Council's meeting dates in The Press of Atlantic City (\$53.41) and the Courier Post (\$78.32). Motion made by Creed Pogue to pay these two bills. Motion seconded by Greg Gregory. Roll Call Vote: Julie Akers - yes; Rick Coe -yes; Dick Colby - yes; Bill Christman - yes; Bill Egan - yes; Greg Gregory - yes; Creed Pogue - yes; Joel Spiegel - yes; Marc Thyrring - yes. Motion carried unanimously

**Public Comment**

A motion was made by Creed Pogue to open the meeting to the public. Motion was seconded by Greg Gregory. No comments were received. A motion was made by Greg Gregory and seconded by Creed Pogue to close the public portion.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Adjourned at 9:20PM